

Crews make fast work of I-17, re-open interstate

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All Interstate 17 lanes, at Carefree Highway, have been reopened after only a day of road work that included removing a 40-year-old bridge.

The Arizona Department of Transportation originally said the project would be completed by Monday morning.

Throughout the day, traffic was backed up for about four miles on northbound Interstate 17, causing about an hour-long delay for drivers. Traffic there was backed up just a about a mile in distance.

Tim Tait, Arizona Department of Transportation spokesman, said crews demolished the old Carefree Highway bridge over I-17 to make room for a much-larger overpass.

He said the project was completed promptly because of strong efforts by both the construction company, Pulice Construction, and the Arizona Department of Transportation.

The Arizona Department of Public Safety was also on hand to monitor and direct traffic.

The \$20 million project is one of many improvements planned for the I-17 between Loop 101 and Anthem Way.